

Meeting will begin at 6:30p.m.

March 26, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting

**SAVANNAH CITY GOVERNMENT
SUMMARY/FINAL MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
March 26, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.**

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the regular meeting of the City Council was held at 6:32 p.m. by teleconference (1-425-436-6365, access code 109735). Mayor Johnson requested Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan to introduce Rev. Dr. Joseph B. Ervin of Bethany Missionary Baptist Church. Senior Pastor Ervin then offered the Invocation.

PRESENT: Mayor Van R. Johnson, II, Presiding
Alderwoman Keshia Gibson-Carter, At-Large, Post 1, Chairman
Alderwoman Alicia Miller Blakely, At-Large, Post 2
Alderwoman Bernetta B. Lanier, District 1
Alderman Detric Leggett, District 2
Alderwoman Linda Wilder-Bryan, District 3
Alderman Nick Palumbo, District 4, Vice-Chairman
Alderwoman Dr. Estella Edwards Shabazz, District 5, Mayor Pro-Tem
Alderman Kurtis Purtee, District 6

OTHERS PRESENT:
City Manager Pat Monahan
Assistant City Manager Heath Lloyd
Interim Chief Operating Officer Bret Bell
City Attorney Bates Lovett
Clerk of Council Mark Massey
Deputy Assistant to the Mayor Marty Johnston
Communications Senior Director Nick Zoller

Following the Invocation, Mayor Johnson offered condolences on behalf of the City Council pertaining to the passing of Arnold Tenenbaum and Curtis Victor Cooper, Jr. Both men were giants and community stalwarts who made positive impacts in the City.

Date: Mar 26 2020 (6:30p.m.)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

[1. Adoption of the Agenda for the March 26, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #1, Adoption of the Agenda, and Items #2 and #3 as presented, Alderwoman Lanier seconded. The motion was not voted upon.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #1, Adoption of the Agenda, as presented, Alderwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[2. Approval of Minutes for the Work Session & City Manager's Briefing on March 12, 2020](#)

HELD, pending review.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely questioned a Board Appointment (Clinton Edminster) in the March 12, 2020 Work Session and Regular Meeting. Following discussions by Mayor and Council, the consensus was reached for the Clerk of Council and City Attorney to review the March 12, 2020, Meeting Minutes and report back to Council with a clarification of the Minutes.

[3. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting on March 12, 2020](#)

HELD, pending review.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely questioned a Board Appointment (Clinton Edminster) in the March 12, 2020 Work Session and Regular Meeting. Following discussions by Mayor and Council, the consensus was reached for the Clerk of Council and City Attorney to review the March 12, 2020, Meeting Minutes and report back to Council with a clarification of the Minutes.

PRESENTATIONS

[4. Coronavirus Update](#)

Mayor Johnson discussed the Emergency Declaration, Shelter At Home Amendment. Mayor Johnson gave an update on the coronavirus in the Savannah area. He reported there will be a daily briefing at 3:00 p.m. via conference call with Mayor and Council to update the public on the pandemic.

City Manager Monahan gave an update on the City's enforcement of the Emergency Declaration.

Mayor Johnson moved Item #22 up on the Agenda for consideration at this time.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #22, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA - (This section shall include all routine items for which it is anticipated there will be no debate or requests for public input. Any Alderman can remove consent items for discussion or separate consideration.)

5. Authorize the City Manager to Approve a Change Order to the Purchase Order with Johnson-Laux Construction for the Cedar Street Sidewalk Project in the Amount of \$3,729.37 (Event No.7482)

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter questioned the City Manager as it relates to approving only those items on the Consent Agenda and the Purchasing Items, that are vital and necessary during the pandemic. This will show that the City is mindful of the fiscal health of the City.

City Manager Monahan assured Council that the items listed on the Consent Agenda and the Purchasing Items are necessary/essential, at this time, to continue the services for the City.

Alderman Purtee moved to approve Items #5 through #8, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Authorize the City Manager to Approve the Renewal of an Annual Contract with Contractors Depot for Painting Materials for the Summer Home Repair Program up to \$48,000 (Event No. 7025)

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City Manager Monahan assured Council that the items listed on the Consent Agenda and the Purchasing Items are necessary/essential, at this time, to continue the services for the City.

Alderman Purtee moved to approve Items #5 through #8, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Authorize the City Manager to Approve a Contract Renewal with Florida Spectrum Laboratories for Water and Wastewater Sample Analysis up to \$64,500 (Event No. 5106)

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City Manager Monahan assured Council that the items listed on the Consent Agenda and the Purchasing Items are necessary/essential, at this time, to continue the services for the City.

Alderman Purtee moved to approve Items #5 through #8, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Notification of Emergency Procurement of Repair Services from Tractor Equipment Company in the Amount of \$50,995.87 (Event No.7749)

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter questioned the City Manager as it relates to approving only those items on the Consent Agenda and the Purchasing Items, that are vital and necessary during the pandemic. This will show that the City is mindful of the fiscal health of the City.

City Manager Monahan assured Council that the items listed on the Consent Agenda and the Purchasing Items are necessary/essential, at this time, to continue the services for the City.

Alderman Purtee moved to approve Items #5 through #8, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PURCHASING ITEMS

[9. Authorize the City Manager to Approve the Renewal of an Annual Contract with Southern Roof Center for Roofing Materials for the Summer Home Repair Program up to \\$136,111.70 \(Event No. 7023\)](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #9 through #14, per the City Manager's recommendation, Alderman Palumbo seconded. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz questioned some of the Purchasing Items and suggested holding back on approving the items. There was discussions with Mayor Johnson, Council, and the City Manager, who indicated that all the purchasing items were essential.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan called for a point of order to vote on each individual line item.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz withdrew the motion and asked the City Manager to provide the most critical items that needed a vote today.

Alderman Palumbo did not withdraw the second. He called a point of order to remind Council of following the guidelines of Robert's Rules of Order.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz reaffirmed the motion to approve Items #9 through #14, per the City Manager's recommendation, Alderman Palumbo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[10. Authorize the City Manager to Approve the Renewal of a Two-Year Maintenance Agreement with Motorola for Radio Software and Network Support in the Amount of \\$163,875.62 \(Event No. 7752\)](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #9 through #14, per the City Manager's recommendation, Alderman Palumbo seconded. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz questioned some of the Purchasing Items and suggested holding back on approving the items. There was discussions with Mayor Johnson, Council, and the City Manager, who indicated that all the purchasing items were essential.

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Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz reaffirmed the motion to approve Items #9 through #14, per the City Manager's recommendation, Alderman Palumbo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Authorize the City Manager to Approve the Renewal of an Annual Maintenance Agreement with Motorola for Repairs and Support for Radio Hardware in the Amount of \$199,567.98 (Event No. 7760)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #9 through #14, per the City Manager's recommendation, Alderman Palumbo seconded. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz questioned some of the Purchasing Items and suggested holding back on approving the items. There was discussions with Mayor Johnson, Council, and the City Manager, who indicated that all the purchasing items were essential.

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Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz reaffirmed the motion to approve Items #9 through #14, per the City Manager's recommendation, Alderman Palumbo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Annual Contract with Garcia Services, LLC for Bi-Weekly Grounds Maintenance at Laurel Grove North Cemetery up to \$136,500 (Event No.7652)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #9 through #14, per the City Manager's recommendation, Alderman Palumbo seconded. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz questioned some of the Purchasing Items and suggested holding back on approving the items. There was discussions with Mayor Johnson, Council, and the City Manager, who indicated that all the purchasing items were essential.

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Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz reaffirmed the motion to approve Items #9 through #14, per the City Manager's recommendation, Alderman Palumbo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Authorize the City Manager to Approve an Annual Contract with Savannah Brush and Chemical, Inc. for Chlorine and Hydrofluorosilicic (HFS) acid for up to \$186,600 (Event No. 7544)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #9 through #14, per the City Manager's recommendation, Alderman Palumbo seconded. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz questioned some of the Purchasing Items and suggested holding back on approving the items. There was discussions with Mayor Johnson, Council, and the City Manager, who indicated that all the purchasing items were essential.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan called for a point of order to vote on each individual line item.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz withdrew the motion and asked the City Manager to provide the most critical items that needed a vote today. Alderman Palumbo did not withdraw the second. He called a point of order to remind Council of following the guidelines of Robert's Rules of Order.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz reaffirmed the motion to approve Items #9 through #14, per the City Manager's recommendation, Alderman Palumbo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Authorize the City Manager to Procure Two By-Pass Pumps for Lift Stations from Thompson Pump and Manufacturing in the amount of \$112,533 (Event No. 7761)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Items #9 through #14, per the City Manager's recommendation, Alderman Palumbo seconded. Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz questioned some of the Purchasing Items and suggested holding back on approving the items. There was discussions with Mayor Johnson, Council, and the City Manager, who indicated that all the purchasing items were essential.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan called for a point of order to vote on each individual line item.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz withdrew the motion and asked the City Manager to provide the most critical items that needed a vote today. Alderman Palumbo did not withdraw the second. He called a point of order to remind Council of following the guidelines of Robert's Rules of Order.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz reaffirmed the motion to approve Items #9 through #14, per the City Manager's recommendation, Alderman Palumbo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

[15. Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Authorities](#)

Mayor Johnson asked Council Members to hold back on submission of names for the Savannah Housing Taskforce for another week due to the current pandemic. He will send a memo to Council Members this week with an update on moving forward with the Taskforce.

ALCOHOL LICENSE HEARINGS

[16. Approval of a Class B \(Beer\) \(Brewer\) Alcohol License to Pratt E. Mathews of Hop Atomica at 535 East 39th Street \(Aldermanic District 2\) CONTINUED TO APRIL 09, 2020](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to continue/postpone Items #16 and #17 to the April 9, 2020 City Council Meeting, Alderwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[17. Approval of a Class C \(Beer and Wine\)\(By the Drink\) and Class D \(Beer and Wine\)\(By the Package\) Alcohol License to Jeff Notrica of Riverstreet Beer and Wine at 503 East River St. \(Aldermanic District 2\) CONTINUED TO APRIL 09, 2020](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to continue/postpone Items #16 and #17 to the April 9, 2020 City Council Meeting, Alderwoman Lanier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ZONING HEARINGS

[18. Approval to Rezone 65.28 Acres of Property on Stillwood Drive and Cedar Grove Avenue \(Savannah Country Day School\) CONTINUED TO APRIL 09, 2020](#)

Alderman Purtee moved to continue/postpone Item #18 to the April 9, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting, Alderwoman Gibson-Carter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCES - SECOND READING

[19. Rezone 2818 Bee Road from B-N \(Neighborhood Business\) and B-C \(Community Business\) Zoning Districts to the TC-1 \(Traditional Commercial\) Zoning District \(Petitioner Jay Maupin on behalf of Bee Hive Studios\)](#)

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Items #19 and #20, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[20. Amend the Future Land Use Map Category for 2818 Bee Road from Commercial Suburban to Traditional Commercial \(Petitioner Jay Maupin on Behalf of Bee Hive Studios\)](#)

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Items #19 and #20, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[21. Amend the Eastern Wharf Planned Development to Include a Sign Ordinance \(Petitioner Harold Yellin on behalf of SRL Land Venture, LLC\) CONTINUED TO APRIL 23, 2020](#)

Alderwoman Lanier indicated that the requested meetings of the residents was not finalized as requested at the last Regular City Council Meeting. Alderwoman Lanier moved to continue Item #21 to the April 23, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting to afford the opportunity for the residents to have input on the issue, Alderwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

[22. Confirmation of the Mayor's March 19, 2020 and March 24, 2020 First Amended Declaration of Local Emergency](#)

Moved up to Item #4.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #22, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[23. Approval of a Resolution to Transition the City of Savannah to 100 Percent Clean Energy by 2035](#)

City Manager Monahan gave a brief description of the 100% Clean Energy Plan for the City of Savannah.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter moved to approve Item #23 and asked City staff to evaluate/investigate the additional benefits in the stimulus package to take advantage of this opportunity, Alderman Palumbo and Alderwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed unanimously. There followed discussions from Mayor and Council on the Clean Energy Resolution and the positive impact it will have on the City of Savannah. Alderwoman Lanier called for a point of order. Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan read a letter into the record from Dr. McClain requesting the Council to approve the Clean Energy Resolution.

[24. Approval of a Resolution Accepting a \\$50,000 Donation from Chatham County Housing Coalition for the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund](#)

Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Item #24, Alderwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

AGREEMENTS

[25. Approval of a Water and Sewer Agreement with D.R. Horton Homes, Inc. for Godley Park Phase 5](#)

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan moved to approve Item #25, Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter asked for additional clarity of Item #25 from City Manager Monahan. She asked how impact fees could benefit developments such as The Highlands. She encouraged the City Manager to consider imposing impact fees on new development moving forward, that will benefit the City.

Alderwoman Lanier inquired if the developers at The Highlands have met with the residents for additional phases of development.

[26. Approval of a Water and Sewer Agreement with Savannah College of Art and Design for SCAD Victory Village Dormitories](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #26, Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan seconded. The motion passed, 8-0-1, with Alderwoman Gibson-Carter recusing herself from discussions and the vote.

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz discussed the benefits of approving Item #26 and asked the City Manager if impact fees could be used for this development.

Alderwoman Wilder-Bryan stated the project will produce \$349,834.17.

REAL ESTATE ITEMS

[27. Approval to Declare Surplus and Available for Sale a Portion of East 31st Lane – Petition #190299](#)

Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Items #27 through #30,
Alderwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[28. Approval to Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a Billboard Lease with Lamar Companies at 1809 West US Hwy 80 \(PIN 60827 01004\).](#)

Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Items #27 through #30,
Alderwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
Alderwoman Miller Blakely commented on Item #28, that she and
Alderwoman Gibson-Carter did due diligence on the pricing of the large
sign and agree with staff for approval.

[29. Approval to Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Third Amendment to a Lease with American Tower Corporation to Support Public Safety Related Services](#)

Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Items #27 through #30,
Alderwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

[30. Approval to Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Fifth Amendment to the Existing Lease Agreement to allow Alltel Communications, LLC \("Verizon"\) to Upgrade Their Equipment on a City-Owned Water Tower.](#)

Alderwoman Lanier moved to approve Items #27 through #30,
Alderwoman Miller Blakely seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

[31. Settlement #1](#)

Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz moved to approve Item #31, authorize the
City Attorney's office to settle a Workmen's Compensation matter of
former Police Sergeant Corey Shaft in the amount of \$446,007.81,
Alderman Purtee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS

[32. First Reading of the Downtown Savannah Authority Bond Application for Approximately \\$83.0 million to Partially Fund Construction of a New Trial Courthouse](#)

Read. No action required.

City Manager Monahan gave a brief description of the construction of a
new Chatham County Trial Courthouse which was approved by the
Downtown Savannah Authority on March 20, 2020, which is a SPLOST IV
project. The second reading will be at the Regular Meeting of City
Council on April 9, 2020.

[33. Approval of the Final Plat for a Major Subdivision \(Spring Lakes Phase 6\)](#)

Alderwoman Lanier moved to continued/postponed Item #33 to the April 23, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting, Mayor Pro-Tem Dr. Shabazz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Alderwoman Lanier reported there are some concerns from the residents, i.e. traffic flow, recreational amenities, etc. and they would like to have meetings to address those issues.

Mayor Johnson gave an update on the impact of the Coronavirus, COVID-19, in Georgia and other communities within the State. He advised members of the City Council and the public that the City is looking at other technology options for conducting the City Council meetings which will allow members and the public to see the Council at work. Lastly, Mayor Johnson reminded everyone that there will be another daily weekday call (re: Coronavirus & City Operations Update) on tomorrow at 3:00 p.m.

Alderwoman Miller Blakely requested information pertaining to a moratorium on evictions, the homeless population and shelters, and anything that the City can do to assist in those areas. She also inquired about the distribution of hand sanitizers for the employees.

Alderwoman Gibson-Carter stressed the importance of following the current Emergency Declaration (Order), which includes a need to adhere to social distancing guidelines, sheltering-in-place and the closing of businesses.

Mayor Johnson spoke of a letter he sent to the Governor and Senators and Congressmen regarding the formula being used for stimulus funding. He recommended other City Council members sending a letter as well. He offered additional statistics with respect to Coronavirus cases and the severe nature of what is occurring.

Hearing no further business, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

The audio recording of the Council Meeting can be found by copying and inserting the below link in your url:

<https://fccdl.in/9CrJIFEski>

Mark Massey, Clerk of Council

Date Minutes Approved: April 9, 2020

Initials: mm